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tees, that that association, through Mrs. Earl, be requested to send to the Trustees' Section of the A. L. A. a brief statement, showing some of the things that they have accomplished. If that could be presented to us I think we could use it to encourage other state associations and encourage

other trustees to come to these meetings, which are so helpful.

(The motion was seconded and carried.)

The officers of the Section were continued: Chairman, W. T. Porter, secretary, T. L. Montgomery.

Adjourned.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS ROUND TABLE

The Public Documents Round Table was held at the New Monterey Hotel, Friday morning, June 30. Chairman, George S. Godard, state librarian of Connecticut; secretary, E. H. Redstone, librarian Social Law Library, Boston.

The chairman called attention to the successful meeting of the Round Table held in Washington in 1914, at which representatives of the superintendent of documents and the Joint Committee on Printing explained the printing bill then before the Sixty-third Congress. As this bill failed to be enacted by that Congress it was necessary to formulate and introduce another bill into the Sixty-fourth Congress, which, like its predecessor, included practically all the suggestions which have been made from time to time by librarians and the Government Documents Round Table.

He stated that it was their privilege at the present time to listen to Mr. Carter, clerk of the Joint Committee on Printing, who, through the courtesy of the Committee, was present to explain the provisions of the bill so far as it affected library interests. He then introduced Mr. George H. Carter, who read a paper on "The printing bill."

(See p. 301)

Chairman GODARD: I am sure we have all appreciated the plain statement of the bill before the Sixty-fourth Congress, as set forth by the clerk of the Joint Committee on Printing.

Mr. BOWKER: I am so very much impressed with this that I think we ought to go a bit further, and I move that this body

present its thanks to the secretary of the Committee, and through him to the Joint Committee on Printing for the bill, and the happy presentation of it by their representative.

Mr. CARR: Seconding Mr. Bowker's motion, I wish to say, as one who has had much to do with documents for thirty years, that I do feel, as I listen to Mr. Carter, that while we have not reached the millennium in legislation, I feel that the millennium is almost in sight. I second the motion.

(The motion was unanimously adopted by a rising vote.)

Mr. CARTER: I am sure the Committee will be greatly gratified.

Chairman GODARD: We are especially fortunate in having with us Miss Edith E. Clarke, who has had so much to do with the handling and investigation of public documents, who will present to us "Some observations concerning government publications as they are and as they should be."

(See p. 312)

Mr. BOWKER: I think we may rejoice with Mr. Carter that we have come so much nearer the millennium, and we can also thank Miss Clarke for leading us toward Utopia. The whole question recurs in government documents which for other documents we have solved in most of our libraries. The old systems of issuing and numbering was a sort of fixed location, based on the numbers. You put your government documents right along on the shelves and got your shelves as the series extended, and that was very convenient for the person

who had the scheme fully in mind. Not all Congressmen had the old scheme fully in mind, but it was in a way an easy system. The plan somewhat carried out in the bill, which I would like carried out in Miss Clarke's plan, would give opportunity for the subject classification and the movable location we now have generally adopted. Of course, that is a somewhat different matter from the question of serial numbering, but the two are inter-related, and so much has been used commercially in the admirable cataloging and publishing of the Victor and Columbia phonograph records. You will notice that there the title is brought forward, the authors given by themselves, below is a number, below that is another little number of which I don't quite understand the significance, but the names which are printed are large letters,—all useful things for the general user. I have several collections of records; for instance, one of national airs, one of distinctive dance music, and others of other kinds, and those are arranged in a movable location by subject. Now, the dealer arranges the collection entirely by the large numbers, and I presume the small number is the manufacturer's serial number.

To my mind, the government publications should follow somewhat of that plan; that is to say, the main thing should be the actual subject of the volume, with the issuing author strongly brought out, and the serial number or the United States document number, or whatever it may be, should be entirely subordinate, and instead of printing 73 additional copies they should merely reprint the title page, similar to the page in the catalog, but with these small numbers added. It is absolutely a waste of the taxpayers' money to have these additional printings.

Of course, we are looking from two points of view. The Congressman wants government documents for Congressional use, and perhaps doesn't fully appreciate the enormous use of government documents today by the general public, and especially by the student, the person who is most able to interpret the valuable material which

used to be inserted in government documents. But the difference between documents today and forty years ago when this Association was formed, is almost as great as the difference between the Bible in the old days and the Bible as circulated by the Gideons today.

As to the matter of distribution. In our small library in Stockbridge we actually hurt the feelings of our Congressman by saying that we couldn't afford to give shelf room to the daily "Congressional record," and it seems that that, even that, should not be imposed upon public depositories. The large library wants a good many copies where the small library may not want one copy of a good document.

It is perfectly impossible in a meeting like this to discuss these matters in detail. It would take all day and the next week. We can, of course, be thankful that those great advances have been made, and I think in the spirit which Mr. Carter has shown and in the suggestions which Miss Clarke has brought before us we will be fairly considered. We cannot get all of them, but we can probably get some of them adopted.

I wish there were time to ask what I have in mind. When this Association was formed, as I have indicated, government publications were simply an atom. They were not used; they were so much lumber for the most part. Today it is wonderfully different. One of my first tasks in bibliography was to try to get some kind of practical cataloging done in government publications. The catalog of that day was the most absurd chronological printing work of all Congress and the government in general had published. I had to go to Washington and work in the departments and bureaus, and finally I had published as an appendix to the "American catalog" a catalog résumé arranged by departments and bureaus of government publications.

It would interest you to know how many of our recommendations have since been adopted. Some of the recommendations which Miss Clarke has urged are still

found here, unadopted, but the progress has been enormous, and I think the thing for us all to do is to put our shoulders behind the printing bill, get Mr. Carter to adopt as many more of these steps toward Utopia as possible, and get some action.

There have been two measures pending before Congress for years which are of the greatest importance to the people, and which get shelved because of urgency of less important things. One is this bill, the other is the bill for the reorganization of the Post Office on a decent, businesslike basis, and we shall approach very much nearer the governmental millennium when we get these two bills through.

Miss HASSE: I am very glad that you so unanimously gave your approval this morning to the new printing bill, if only for one reason. I think I am right in understanding Mr. Carter that the committee hearings will hereafter be distributed. I don't know whether you all realize the importance of hereafter getting those committee hearings sent to you regularly. You have never had them before unless you especially asked for them, and if the bill goes through with that recommendation I hope that there will be a reprint of the hearings. The merchant marine hearings taken two years ago take up two volumes. Those hearings contain testimony from the specialists in the subjects, and are, of course, most useful material on the shelves for advance reference work.

As to the immediate subject under discussion, I do not know whether I am competent to say anything. I had a dream, too, of the reformation of cataloging and distribution, and reformation of waste in government documents. I don't know where I got it, but I have got over it. There are other documents besides United States documents. Since getting over this obsession of reforming the United States documents I have taken up a little work with state documents. I think since I have done that that United States documents are really very simple. You all know Mr. Seaver and what a very careful, conscientious worker he is. Several years ago

he re-cataloged the publications of the University of the State of New York. He took this very carefully home and worked for two hours every day,—his own time, without interruption, to arrange things for us. And then he resigned. There isn't another accumulation of publications of the University of the State of New York in the shape in which this is.

A DELEGATE: What possibility is there of having this bill passed at this session of Congress? Will it have to go to another Congress; pass one House in one Congress and pass the other House in the other Congress? Now that there is a uniform report from the Joint Committee, is there any possibility that this will pass this Congress, this session, or what can we do to push it?

Mr. CARTER: I don't know whether it will pass this year or not. We have never been able to get it through both House and Senate in the same Congress. The thing is to get your Congressmen and Senators interested, in showing that you are interested. I don't know a better way than by writing to your Congressman.

Might I just explain a word here? Government depositories now get a portion of their sets without trouble,—title, "62d Congress, First Session," and so on; "Senate Documents, Volume 1." Now, then, the purpose is to abolish this volume number here and eliminate that reference to it, then take the actual title of the book itself and make the main top title, "Navy year book," for instance, the year "1911," subordinate the document number; "Senate Document 112, 62d Congress, Second Session," and any library that wants to shelve that according to subjects doesn't have that awkward top title, which means nothing to it. If we eliminate this volume number it will take out of the catalog any reference to this having been in the Congressional set, particularly, and if you want to put it on your shelves with the serial number that serial number can subsequently be inserted here (illustrating), or down below, but you still have your book with the one title on top, the individual title of the

book, so that whenever that book is published it will bear that same back title, so that there will be in the future no duplication whatever, whether or not you get the book from the department itself. Supposing it is the secretary of war's report of 1914. If he sends it to you it will have that same top title, if you get it from Congress it will have the same top title, and both editions will have the fact that it had been printed as a Senate Document, which will give the key in advance of the serial number. Then, afterward, the superintendent of documents will furnish you the serial number, which will be the key to his indexes and his catalog. From that he will drop all reference to the volume number.

Chairman GODARD: Before we close I want to call attention to another matter. All of you have heard of the effort that has been made for the past nine years by the

joint committee of state librarians and law librarians to get an index to current legislation of all the states.

While I have no occasion to give a talk on what that index does, as we all have a chance to get a sample copy, I hope that when you get home you will speak to those interested in such things and emphasize the fact that it is a co-operative work, and that while the present publishers have contributed towards its present state of perfection something like thirty thousand dollars, they now feel that the index has been shown to be practical and desirable, and they feel that it should be self-supporting. So anything that any of us can do to help this Joint Committee that has been working so hard for nine years to perfect this index, ought to be done.

A motion to adjourn being seconded and agreed to, the meeting adjourned.

ROUND TABLE ON LENDING WORK

In response to a wide-spread desire for an opportunity to discuss the problems of adult circulation a Round Table was held Wednesday, June 28, at 2:30 in the Palm Room of the New Monterey.

Mr. Paul Blackwelder, of the St. Louis Public Library, who presided, explained briefly the reasons for holding the Round Table and in conclusion, said:

Librarians, who are interested in publicity, would do well to ponder the advertising value of a friendly and satisfied public. Successful business men have long appreciated this self-evident fact. Hotels, department stores, even public service corporations, are making every effort to advance their business by courteous and intelligent service. In this connection, I want to remind many of you of the exceptional entertainment received by the A. L. A. at the Hotel Maryland in Pasadena a few years ago. Many librarians remember the charming personality of the manager, Mr. Linnard, and the re-

markable consideration shown them by the members of his staff. On the last day of the meeting one of the librarians asked Mr. Linnard the secret of his perfect discipline and of the homelike spirit in his hotel. He replied that if the statement were true it could be explained by one rule which his employees were told must never be broken. That rule was: "The guest is always right."

I commend to all librarians the spirit expressed in that regulation.

Of the many topics handed to the chairman for discussion, the first presented was: Shall the guarantor requirement for readers' cards be abolished? The discussion showed that a large number of libraries still require a guarantor, but the general tendency of the times seems to be against a guarantee of any kind. Even a reference is deemed unnecessary in many libraries if the applicant's name be in the city directory, or he can be identified in any way, by presentation of a tax receipt,